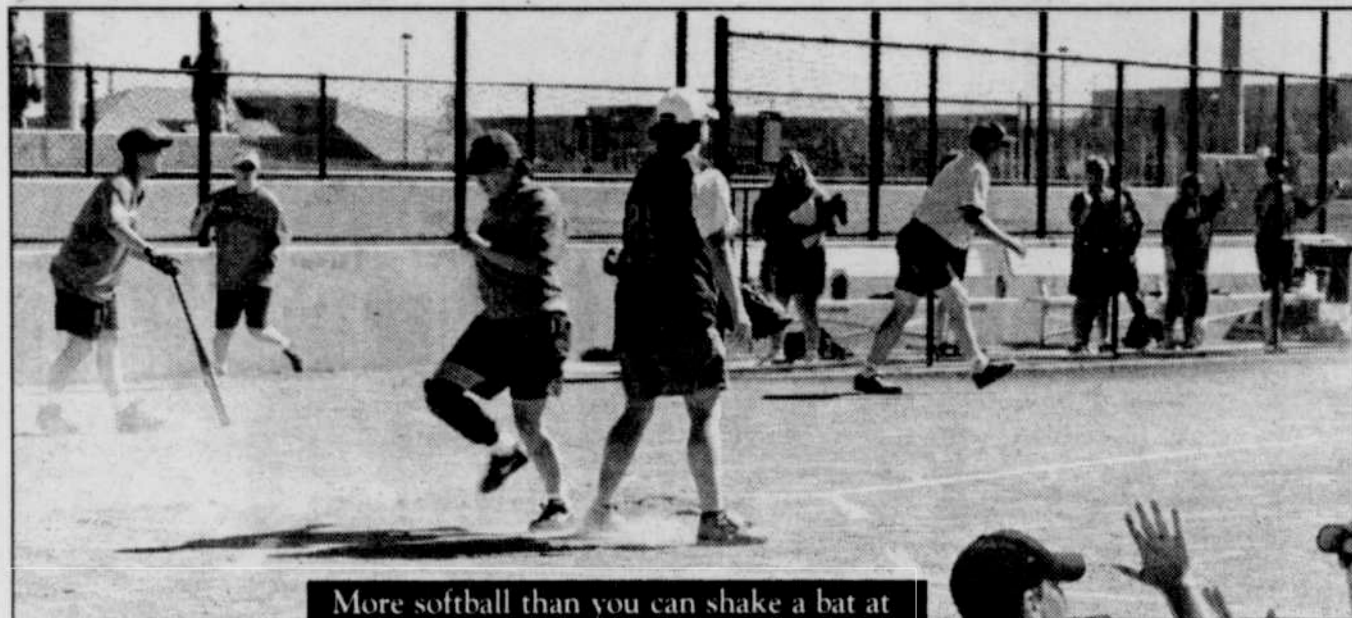


## DIVERSIONS



More softball than you can shake a bat at in the Portland area this month

### Softball scenesters descend on Portland area

August is just chock-a-block with queer softball. First of all, the Lesbian Community Project plays host to its 17th annual Softball Tournament of Choice Aug. 9 to 11 at Prairie Fields in Brush Prairie, Wash. The following weekend the Rose City Softball Association welcomes thousands of players and fans to the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance's World Series 2002.

As for the Tournament of Choice, this year hardworking LCP volunteers had to turn away 10 teams to stick to its 32-team limit. This left some disgruntled Oregon and Washington players who have been participating for years out of the running. "After 17 years it's growing, which is exciting," says Kathy Saunders, one of the tournament coordinators, although she admits it's unfortunate teams have to be turned away.

Co-coordinator Kathy Gillette agrees. "The tournament has continued to grow throughout its existence...we are looking at changing possibly the format next year so we can accommodate more teams."

That's good news for softballers and for LCP, too, which regards the event as its biggest fund-raiser of the year.

The coordinators couldn't be more pleased at the success of the annual affair. Gillette, who is also an umpire for the Portland Metro Softball Association, acknowledges all the consistent hard work that, over time, has made this small eight-team tournament into one of the most successful women's softball events in the Northwest.

"There have been a lot of women who have helped organize it over the years, and they've all played a part in it being as successful as it is now," she says.

Add to all those teams hundreds of rowdy fans and you've got quite a gathering of dykes, er, women. Well, OK, any women's team can register, but let's admit it: "I think these are probably all lesbian teams," allows Saunders.

At the end of the tourney, first-, second- and third-place trophies are awarded in each of four divisions based on skill level. There's also a Most Valuable Player award in each division as well as the Barbara Martin Memorial Good Sports Award, which goes to the individual who possesses, according to Saunders, the same qualities as the woman who used to play with the Portland Furies before succumbing to cancer.

"I never had the opportunity, unfortunately, to meet her," says Saunders, who also used to play with

the Furies. But her reputation followed her as "a real team player, a wonderful person to be around," and, notes Saunders, she "had a really good attitude. She was competitive but had goodwill towards everybody, too. So they've created this award in her memory."

The tournament also serves as somewhat of a festival, with vendor booths, food and camping facilities. There's also a raffle and silent auction to help generate funds.

"It creates a microcommunity for the weekend," exclaims Gillette. "It's a lot of what LCP's about, which is creating community. It fits really well with what LCP tries to do...the rest of the year."

For more information about the Tournament of Choice or for directions to the field, contact LCP at 503-227-0605.

As for the World Series, which runs from Aug. 16, when everyone starts to arrive, to the Aug. 24 closing ceremonies (and subsequent street party blast), "It's an exhausting job," huffs director Roy Melani before laughing and adding, "Be careful what you wish for...."

Having just finished the Portland-area finals, nine RCSA teams will be heading into the World Series: Portland Boxxes' Storm and Portland Gay Yellow Pages in B division; JOQ's and Scandals in C division, Silverado Titans in

D division; Mixed Fruit in the Women's Competitive division; and Mad Dogs, Unleash Yourself and Team Betty (sponsored by, ahem, *Just Out*) in the Women's Alternative division.

"I think the Mixed Fruit team is definitely one to watch in the Women's Competitive team division," proffers Melani. "I think that Team Betty and the Mad Dogs, as far as the Women's Alternative division, could do something pretty special in Portland."

Melani also hints that his own team, the Storm, pretty much kicks butt. "We really want to win! I'd say the two B teams—the Portland Storm and the Portland Gay Yellow Pages—both have a chance to place, if not win, the B division."

The World Series is also as much about the fans as about the players, and several festive events are planned during the week, including the Miss Gay World Series Pageant, a casino river cruise, a Title IX celebration, a talent show and a girls night out. Pick up the Aug. 16 issue of *Just Out* for complete details or visit [www.portlandgaysoftball.com](http://www.portlandgaysoftball.com).

"It's a lot of work," notes Melani, "but it's very rewarding...the 13 committee chairmen are working their butts off on this thing to make sure that we have the best World Series ever in its 26 years."

### Speaking of sports

The Federation of Gay Games has announced that registration numbers have reached the 12,000 mark for Gay Games VI, scheduled for Oct. 25 to Nov. 9 in Sydney, Australia.

Officials were afraid that after Sept. 11, there would be dwindling interest among athletes. Although tickets sales reportedly are slow, team registrations have exceeded expectations. "Registration for Gay Games VI is a huge success," says federation co-president Kathleen Webster, who notes

that although not quite equaling Amsterdam's 14,000 participants in 1998, "given recent world events and Sydney's relative distance to global population centers, we think these numbers are encouraging."

Montreal won the right to play host to Gay Games VII in 2006, and a ceremonial contract signing is scheduled to take place early during the Sydney Games.

It's too late to sign up as a participant in the Gay Games, but it's not too late to go. For more information, visit [www.sydney2002.org.au](http://www.sydney2002.org.au). Montreal's preliminary plans can be found at [www.montreal2006.org](http://www.montreal2006.org).

### Kowabunga!

Alert readers will remember the story in the April 19 issue of *Just Out* about queer

artists who created kows for the Kows for Kids campaign that swept over the Portland area throughout June.

Well, one of our beloved queer kows brought in the most money of any single kow auctioned at the July 13 Wine, Dine and Bovine gala. "Boveena, the Afrikow Queen," created by Portlander Marcus Lintner, sold for a whopping \$100,000 to an anonymous bidder. The next highest was "Oregon Moosaic," which earned a paltry \$50,000.

Once again, queers step up to the plate, hit a home run and save the day. Congratulations Marcus and Boveena.

### Another step in the journey

The folks of *Georgena's Journey: A Community Confronts Multiple Sclerosis* offer another chance to have a fab time and help out one of our own Aug. 17. A community benefit dance to fund Georgena Moran's life-saving stem cell transplant starts 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 3915 S.E. Steele St. Cost is a \$10 donation at the door.

The event includes a raffle for cool stuff like massages, restaurant certificates, Portland Fire memorabilia and Blazers tickets. Music is provided by DJ Lauren.

Moran needs \$150,000 for the surgery, and a group of active volunteers have been raising money for months. Meet Moran and friends at [www.georgenasjourney.org](http://www.georgenasjourney.org).



Naked Roman boys fraternize in *Satyricon* Aug. 9 at the Guild

### Naked Roman boys

The Guild Theatre is screening Federico Fellini's *Satyricon* at 11 p.m. Aug. 9 as part of its dandy Summer Camp Film Series, which includes a new cheesy film every Friday night through Aug. 16.

*Satyricon* is about two half-naked pretty boys, Encolpio and Ascilto, who both want to buy androgynous slave boy Gitone. They argue and go their separate ways, which finds Encolpio on an odyssey that includes a drunken orgy and being kidnapped by a bisexual sea captain. Eventually he reunites with Ascilto (who's been hanging out with Gitone in the meantime), and the three embark upon a plot to capture a "sacred" hermaphrodite.

Fellini said about his opus, "I am examining ancient Rome as if this were a documentary about the customs and habits of the Martians." Heck, I guess we've been called worse. [7]

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW



"Boveena, the Afrikow Queen" rakes in \$100,000

PHOTO BY CHEYNE CUMMING